

T H E C L E V E L A N D M U S E U M O F A R T

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LIGHT-SCULPTURE SHINES AT CLEVELAND ART MUSEUM

Sculpture using the phenomena of reflected and electrically produced light go on display in gallery 26 of The Cleveland Museum of Art beginning February 27 and continuing through March 24. The twelve works shown represent a science-linked art form now commanding considerable avant-garde attention. Some of the works are for sale.

Artists represented are Martha Boto, Varda Chryssa, Hugo DeMarco, Stanley Landsman, Julio Le Parc, Manfredo Massironi, Preston McClanahan, Boyd Mefferd, Gregorio Vardanega and Otto Piene who, in connection with the exhibit, will come to Cleveland Sunday, March 10 to deliver an illustrated lecture Phenomena versus Objects. Speaking at 3:30 p.m. in the Museum auditorium, Piene will touch on the subjects of art and light and the combination of both.

The emergence of light-sculpture is a logical development, since, in art, sculpture is the natural receiver of the effects of light. In early history, artists painted sculpture to give it life, but after the Renaissance, when polychromy was increasingly neglected, artists inclined more toward livelier modelling and carved texture so that sculpture was not only tactually interesting but visually attracting as well. Light and shadow played off the forms of the sculpture. With the gradual abandonment of realistic portrayal, light has been used more boldly, the sculpture is experienced less tactually and more visually. Sculpture now emphasizes not mass, but space, void and silhouette; and the visual effects of reflection, transparency and refraction begin to play the dominant role. Some art historians have predicted that one day light moving in space will become a new visual idiom with traditional sculpture becoming less interesting to the practising artist.